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## **Istook Request Leads to Federal Audit of OK Juvenile Affairs**

*Possible misuse of federal grant money leads to U.S. Justice Department probe*

Washington, DC – Congressman Ernest Istook's (R-OK) inquiry into possible misuse of federal funds by a state agency has led the U.S. Department of Justice to announce it will audit the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA).

**"The OJA has a bad track record on how they've spent taxpayers' money,"** said Istook. **"Given the abuses uncovered by the state audit, I fear that we may find they've also mismanaged the federal funds that were entrusted to them. The audit is to find out, to hold people accountable, and to make sure that problems are fixed."**

The OJA has received \$18.3 million of federal money in the last six years through the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG).

Istook requested last month that the U.S. Justice Department investigate the OJA after a state audit uncovered that tax dollars were used for political contributions and employee bonuses, when that money should have been used to help at-risk youth.

The federal audit will focus on the same problems that the state audit uncovered, but this time checking the use of federal rather than state dollars. In a June 8<sup>th</sup> letter to Istook, the Justice Department's Deputy Inspector General, Paul K. Martin, said, **"During the course of our audit, we will review issues identified by the Oklahoma State Auditor, including concerns about the lack of monitoring and accountability and possible improper management of JAIBG funds."**

A full copy of the Justice Department's response to Istook's request can be found on our website at [www.house.gov/istook](http://www.house.gov/istook).